

Travel Award Scoring Guidelines

Overall, one total score should be assigned to each applicant as outlined*:

- 1: Exceptional: In the top 10% of applicants overall. Overall outstanding; with no weaknesses.
- 2: Very Good/Good: Top 25% of applicants overall. Strengths outweigh weaknesses.
- 3: Satisfactory/Average: Top 50% of applicants overall. Balance of strengths and weaknesses.
- 4: Fair: Weaknesses outweigh strengths.
- 5: Marginal: An application with serious weaknesses and limited strengths.

***It is important to use the entire score range while scoring your applicants.**

It is advisable to assign a preliminary score and then go back after reviewing ALL applicants and revise as necessary. A reviewer should look for; (1) Evidence of quality in all evaluation categories and, (2) a trajectory of future excellence apparent in each evaluation category.

Junior Applicants: Those individuals who are at a level which is **less than an assistant professor**, also including psychiatric residents, interns, and post-doctoral fellows. Applicants may be **no more than 5 years past their final training** (Post doc or Residency). A good rule is if they are faculty, they are probably too senior for this category.

Scientific Productivity Category:

1. Publications in peer-reviewed journals:
 - a. Total number of publications.
 - b. Number of first-author publications.
 - c. Quality and impact of publications (e.g., impact of journals where published).

*In 2014, recipients at the junior level had 3 – 17 first authored papers, averaging 7 first author papers per recipient. The range of total publications was 8 – 33, with an average of 16 per recipient.
2. Funding (K Award or small R Grant greater than foundation grant, greater than no funding).

*In 2014, recipients at the junior level listed 0 – 9 grants, averaging 3 foundation-level grants. 7 junior level recipients had received a K or R award.

Distinctions & Organizations Category:

1. Awards, honors, and recognition.
2. Roles in national and international research organizations.

*In 2014, recipients at the junior level listed an average of 12 honors and awards.

Relationship to ACNP Category:

1. Strength of nomination letters attesting to the present and future value of the candidate to ACNP.

Scientific Quality Category:

1. Quality of science and coherence of science in alignment with career track.

Senior Applicants: Those individuals who are an assistant professor, or an associate professor who does not have an RO1 or a VA Merit Award (associate professors with R01s or VA Merit Awards are considered too senior to apply for a travel award). Applicants may be **no more than 5 years past their final training** (Post doc or Residency).

Scientific Productivity Category:

1. Publications in peer-reviewed journals:
 - a. Total number of publications.
 - b. Number of first-author publications.
 - c. Quality and impact of publications (e.g., impact of journals where published).
- *In 2014, recipients at the senior level had 4 – 28 first authored papers, averaging 11 first authored papers per recipient. The range of total publications was 8-52, with an average of 25 per recipient.

2. Funding (K Award or small R Grant greater than foundation grant, greater than no funding).

*In 2014, recipients at the senior level listed 2 – 17 grants, averaging 7 foundation-level grants per recipient. 10 senior level recipients had received a K or R award.

Distinctions & Organizations Category:

1. Awards, honors, and recognition.
 2. Roles in national and international research organizations.
 3. Experience with editorial boards and/or grant reviews.
- *In 2014, recipients at the senior level listed an average of 12 honors and awards.

Relationship to ACNP Category:

1. Strength of nomination letters attesting to the present and future value of the candidate to ACNP.

Scientific Quality Category:

1. Quality of science and coherence of science in alignment with career track.

M.D. and M.D./Ph.D. Student Trainee: Degree candidates that are currently enrolled in a MD program (or an MD/PhD dual enrollment program). *If the applicant is a PhD candidate only, they are not eligible in this category.* Also, applicants having previously earned their MD designation are too senior for this category. Guidelines for reviewing applicants for this award are the same but the threshold should be lower. Also, funding may not be relevant at this level.

Scientific Productivity Category:

1. Publications in peer-reviewed journals:
 - d. Total number of publications.
 - e. Number of first-author publications.
 - f. Quality and impact of publications (e.g., impact of journals where published).

*In 2014, recipients at the student trainee level had 1 - 4 first authored papers averaging 2 first authored papers per recipient. The range of total publications was 2-17 with an average of 7.

Distinctions & Organizations Category:

1. Awards, honors, and recognition.
2. Roles in national and international research organizations.
3. Experience with editorial boards and/or grant reviews.

*In 2014, recipients at the student trainee listed an average of 11 awards and honors.

Relationship to ACNP Category:

1. Strength of nomination letters attesting to the present and future value of the candidate to ACNP.

Scientific Quality Category:

1. Quality of science and coherence of science in alignment with career track.